

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Call to Worship ~

Leader: It is Christmas Eve. For some reason the stars seem to shine brighter; the words of the carols seem to be more personal; the smiles on the faces around us seem much more vibrant, and the future seems to be more hopeful. On this night of nights, we are alive to the Spirit of Christ in our midst.

People: Christ is born in Bethlehem. The love of God has come down to earth so that all may share in it.

Leader: Emmanuel – God is with us.

People: Thanks be to God for this Christmas joy in our midst.

Singing: *O Come All Ye Faithful* VU#60

Prayer and Lord's Prayer: O Holy God, tonight we hear the story of shepherds and magi, of maiden and carpenter, of prophets and angels, and we too come to Bethlehem for a blessing. May You be born in our hearts because You have chosen the weakness of our bodies for Your birth. May we be filled with love because You have taken upon Yourself our humanity; may we be filled with hope because You have offered us Your Spirit, Your life and Your light; may we be filled with faith because all that is meek and lowly and humble in us and in creation becomes holy this night. Our salvation has come into this holy time and we say together, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and goodwill to all." Amen.

Christ Candle Lighting Ceremony

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

Leader: Our Advent journey is now complete. The darkness is gone. The Light of the World is here!

People: Our hope has been met. Our preparations are done. Our joy has been made perfect. The love of God has come to live among us. And so, tonight, we light the candle of Christ.

Leader: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. The long-awaited Christ has come!

People: Celebrating the birth of our Savior, we light this candle. Together, may we shine with the radiant light of Christ!

Singing: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* VU#48

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 9: 2-7 p. 555
Luke 2:1-14 p. 832

Anthem: "*Born In A Manger*"

Reflections: What Child Is This?

Singing: *What Child Is This* VU#74

Presentation of Ourselves and Gifts to God

Duet: "Still, Still, Still" Doreen Gilbert, Richard Fortier

Doxology: "All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace,
Good will to all from highest heaven
Begin, and never cease."
VU#75

Offertory Prayer: Grant us O God, such wonder and love, that with humble shepherds and with angels from on high, we may truly adore the Holy Child. With these our gifts and this our worship, may we also offer our lives and selves in Jesus' name. Amen.

Anthem: "Born To Set Us Free"

Invitation to Holy Communion

Hymn: Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
**Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**
VU#36 vs. 1

All who come with hearts confessing
Thus approach His table now
Let us, with the Saviour's blessing,
In His presence humbly bow.
Come and worship...

May the bread of life enfold us,
May the wine instill the love
Of the Christ child, long foretold us,
Now proclaimed from heaven above.
Come and worship.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Singing: *Silent Night* VU#67

Benediction

The St. A's staff extends to you Christmas blessings and a desire that the New Year might also be one of deep blessings for you.

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

184th Anniversary Year ~ 1833-2017

~WORSHIP~

December 24, 2017 ~ 10:00 pm
Christmas Eve Communion Service



Minister: Rev. K. Alice McAlpine
Director of Music Ministry: Doreen Gilbert Bangs

To greet you ~

Elder: Patricia Nielsen
Stewards: Cliff Henderson

Please Pray For: Arthur Allan, Antoine, Pat Ashworth, Shelley Baumann, Barbara Batten, Audrey & Erich Bauer, Rob Bauer, Bernice, Greg Blersch, Robin Blersch, Bonnie, Esther Bohlein, Tea Kinsella-Borden, Brigida, Carol, Caroline, Caroly, Rick Cessford, Laura Cuthbertson, Dianah, Milt Dodds, Heather Downs, Mary-Alice Epps, Ron Epps, Larry Falcon, Gail, Linda Gallant, Gladys, Myrna Hall, Jennifer, Fern Lafontaine, Lance & family, Roger Laplante, Marie Loch, Jemma Mahabir, Clarence Mahaney, Carrie Marchand, Marcelle, Marisa, Laura McLean, Mile, Michael, Cheryl Miller, Sharon Miller, Sandra Murphy, Ib Nielsen, Paige, Patrick, Julie Patterson, Sarah Puskas, Ella-Mae Ramsey, Bruce Rathwell, Margaret Reany & family, Cheryl Rogers, Fred Rosettani, Bruce Ryan, Isabel Saccucci, Eileen & Donald Sim, Heather Sim, Reynold Skeete, Lesley Snair, Dylan Stanamir, Frank Stark, Madeline Stevens, Jan Verschoote, Cameron Vincent, Margaret Whittal, Fred Wicks, Joanne Wilken, Clara Witowski, John Wiwcharyk, Shirley Yarnell, Sarah Zimmerman



Announcements

- There will be a family service on December 31st and January 7th at 10:30a.m.

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